

## ***National Estuary Program Content and Approval Requirements: A Response***

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The following summary addresses content and approval requirements for the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, as identified in the Clean Water Act of 1987. Each National Estuary Program is unique in its form, allowing programs to modify the national recommendations and structures in order to custom design the CCMP to meet an individual region's needs. The direction that each CCMP takes is molded by local environmental conditions, public needs and political climate. Foremost, each plan must be consistent with state programs and goals in order for it to be acceptable by the public and other regulatory agencies.

The following are statutory required components of the CCMP:

*Management Conference Membership List*  
*Summary of Characterization Findings*  
*Statement of Priority Findings*  
*Environmental Quality Goals and Objectives*  
*Base Program Analysis*  
*Action Plans*  
*Finance Plan and Implementation Strategy*  
*Monitoring Program Plan*  
*Federal Consistency Review*  
*Summary of Public Involvement and Review*

**Management Conference Membership List:** A list including the member's affiliation is included in the document in Appendix F.

**Summary of Characterization Findings:** The introduction to the technical document summarizes the results of just over five years of scientific research in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. Research was conducted to determine priority problems in the estuarine system, to characterize the nature of environmental degradation and to establish pilot studies to examine management alternatives. A comprehensive list of all the studies sponsored by the program can be found in the CCMP in Appendix G. All publications are available to the public and have been subject to an external peer review.

**Statement of Priority Findings:** Priority findings serve as the basis for establishing the goals and objectives of each Action Plan. These priorities are integrated into each Action Plan.

**Environmental Quality Goals and Objectives:** Goals and Objectives for addressing priority problems and environmental quality are included in each Action Plan.

**Base Program Analysis:** This requirement is addressed in a variety of ways. The Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study funded two analyses of existing state and Federal programs which have jurisdiction in the region. These reports entitled, "State and Federal Interrelated Programs to the A/P Study" and "Descriptions of Related Government Programs, Agencies, and Entities" may be found in the publications list, Appendix G. The effectiveness of the existing management framework was assessed by the Management